

**REMARKS**

Claims 18-33 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1-17 are canceled and new claims 18-33 are added. Cancelled claims 10, 16 and 17 are replaced by new claims 26, 32 and 33, respectively.

Claims 1-17 were provisionally rejected for obviousness-type double patenting over claims 1-15 of copending application No. 10/722,431. The rejection is moot because, by this Amendment, claims 1-17 have been canceled. New claims 18-33 are patentably distinct from the claims in copending application No. 10/722,431.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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